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## MAPPING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AMERICA

LILA THOMPSON. **Corn, Wheat, Sugar, Rice, and Cotton in South America.** Maps, ills. *Bull. Pan Amer. Union*, Vol. 52, 1921, pp. 339-363.

LILA THOMPSON. **Distribution of Live Stock in South America.** Maps, ills. *Bull. Pan Amer. Union*, Vol. 53, 1921, pp. 109-124.

The line of research which made Finch and Baker's "Geography of the World's Agriculture" so valuable a contribution to economic geography has been followed in these useful papers. The writer, research assistant in agricultural geography in the United States Department of Agriculture, has compiled available statistics showing the importance of the crops named and of the live stock (cattle, sheep, goats, swine) in each of the South American countries and has mapped their distribution.

These papers supplement the larger work referred to in that the production of many South American countries was proportionately too small to find a place in a summary of the regions most important in the world's agriculture. Production rather than acreage is made the basis of representation of the crops, because statistics of acreage devoted to individual crops are not published by most of the South American countries.

The production maps (scale 1 : 50,000,000) that accompany the articles, when compared with maps showing relief, rainfall, temperature, and the distribution of population, afford an excellent basis for study of various geographic factors that have affected human occupation in the several regions. Some of these factors are brought out in the papers: others will be readily apparent to the student of South American geography.

## AN AGRICULTURAL ATLAS OF WALES

J. PRYSE HOWELL. **An Agricultural Atlas of Wales.** [6 and] 23 pp.; maps. Prepared for the Inst. for Research in Agricultural Economics, Univ. of Oxford. Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1921. 5 s. 10½ x 15 inches.

This publication consists of 18 maps showing, by the dot system, the geographic distribution of the more important crops and kinds of live stock in Wales, by parishes, according to statistics collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1918. In addition, 5 dot maps show the distribution of market towns, of mountain and heath land, of permanent grassland, of arable land, and of bare fallow. An envelope at the back, furthermore, contains three colored maps showing the geology, the topography, and the average annual rainfall. The crop, livestock, and other distribution maps are printed on translucent oiled paper; and the colored maps, being loose, can be inserted beneath the dot maps in order to facilitate comparison between distribution of the crops and the physical conditions shown on these three maps.

The relationship between the rainfall and the distribution of wheat is clearly marked, most of the wheat being grown in those areas having less than 40 inches average annual precipitation, and practically none in areas having over 60 inches. This absence of wheat from the regions of heavy rainfall may also be due, in part, to the higher elevation and presumably cooler temperatures of these upland areas and to the rougher topography. However, as wheat in nearly all parts of the world is of greatest importance in regions having 15 to 35 inches of rainfall, it seems very likely that in Wales, also, the amount of precipitation is the primary factor in determining the distribution of this crop. Barley, on the other hand, shows the densest distribution in regions having 40 to 60 inches of rainfall, while a considerable acreage of oats is indicated for areas having over 80 inches of rainfall and appears to be densest in the 40 to 60 inch zone. Beans are practically confined to the regions having less than 30 inches of rainfall, while potatoes, turnips, and mangolds show no marked preference with reference to amount of annual rainfall.

The correlation of crop distribution with topography and altitude is also evident, the crops being grown in the valleys and on the lower slopes of the mountains, while the higher slopes are largely covered with heath and an appreciable acreage of permanent grass. The comparison of the map of arable land with the relief map is especially effective.

The inclusion of the geological map appears to be due to tradition rather than any correlation between the geological formations and the distribution of the crops. Indeed, the author in the introduction says, "It will be observed that except in the mountainous

areas the geological formation does not determine the distribution nor the density of either crops or livestock."

It is unfortunate that Great Britain has not awakened as yet to the value of a soil survey in directing the development of agriculture, as well as in affording an explanation of the geographic distribution of crops and systems of farming. Undoubtedly, if a soil map had been available it would have been substituted for this practically useless geological map.

The unique feature of this publication consists in printing the dot maps on oiled paper so as to permit comparison with the physical maps. This detracts somewhat from the visibility of the dot maps, but greatly enhances their value for study purposes. If it had been possible to print the physical maps instead of the dot maps on oiled paper, comparison would have been possible without this diminution of visibility.

The Atlas is of practically the same size and shape as the "Geography of the World's Agriculture," published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture; but why it should have been made of this shape is not so clear, as, unlike the United States, Wales is longer than it is broad, and even with the insert table not more than two-thirds of the page is occupied. These insert tables, showing for each county the acres of arable land and the acreage of the particular crop, also the percentage which this acreage bears to the arable land, are a valuable feature. Also deserving of special note is the fact that the dots are distributed by parishes, which roughly correspond in area with townships in the United States. Thus a more exact and detailed distribution is shown than is possible in the case of the United States, where statistics are tabulated by counties.

The introduction to this Atlas indicates that a corresponding publication for England may be available at an early date. This would constitute an even more notable addition to our knowledge of the agricultural geography of foreign countries; and if the work is carried out with the same detail and care that is shown in the Atlas of Wales, it will be of great value to students of agriculture and geography everywhere. It is hoped that this larger atlas may be published soon. If the author would comment on the physical and economic causes of the distribution of the crops and live stock more fully than has been done in the Atlas of Wales, it would materially enhance the value of the publication to those students in foreign countries particularly who have not had the opportunity to travel in England and, consequently, are not familiar with local conditions.

O. E. BAKER

#### MAN AND HIS PAST

M. C. BURKITT. **Prehistory: A Study of Early Cultures in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.** With a short preface by l'Abbé H. Breuil. xix and 438 pp.; ill., bibliogr., index. The University Press, Cambridge, 1921. 9½ x 7 inches.

This new textbook on the prehistoric period appears at a most opportune time, just when interest in research is reviving after the long interruption occasioned by the late war. It will appeal primarily, of course, to workers in the archeological field. But it also contains much that will be of value to students of the history of art; while all those who feel the fascination of the story of primitive man, or who wish to keep in touch with the progress of discovery, will find "Prehistory" abundantly worth the reading.

It may be said by way of premise that Professor Burkitt's choice of a title for his book does injustice to a really excellent piece of work, simply because it awakens too great expectations. As a perusal of the volume will show, comparatively little attention is paid to any part of the Mediterranean Basin, or of Europe either, save southern France and northeastern Spain. Other areas are mentioned only rarely, and then as a rule merely for purposes of comparison or contrast. Further, instead of presenting us with the connected story of man's physical and cultural development during the whole of the prehistoric period, as the title would lead us to expect, the author confines himself almost wholly to the implements and the art of the Old Stone Age. Within these limits of time and space and subject matter, however, the book merits no little praise.

The opening chapter gives a brief but good account of the distribution of early man and the conditions under which he lived; the outline of the development of the science of prehistoric archeology (pp. 10-15) with which it terminates should be particularly useful for purposes of reference. A timely caution is given (p. 2) against confusing cultural and time ages—something that might be obviated if writers would speak of culture stages instead of ages. But Professor Burkitt is hardly justified in characterizing (p. 3) the absence